



Our Home, our Country, our Brother Man.

Wheat Crop in the West.

The Western Wheat Crop is a harp upon which eastern speculators play a great many curious tunes. Every spring you find them pitching down on to what our worthy old friend Robbins of "musical memory" used to call the "wailing D." If their accounts are to be believed, this crop is as sure to be cut off every spring, as the spring comes. It is either winter-killed, or it is too wet, or too dry, or the worm or the bug, or the fly, or the rust, has always demolished the whole of it, and up goes the flour market, and many a "nibble ninepence," do the speculators make out of it. The drought was reported to have killed the whole crop, and quite a rise in flour was the result of the story. Indeed, they went so far as to send a barrel or two back from Boston to Buffalo, and then they out all the flour in the east had been ordered back to feed the Far West with. But it seems a kind Providence will not endorse the falsehood, and is pouring out from its blessed horn of plenty a most glorious crop.

The True Democrat of Cleveland says, "that the wheat crop will be immense this year is certain. There is a failure no where. The late rains have added millions of wealth to the country."

The Michigan Farmer says—"But the wheat crop, the wheat crop, the great staple of Michigan, which keeps our entire population in a constant state of agitation, between hope and fear, like the waves of the sea, 'casting up mire and dirt'—what is it? Well, we were prepared for a doubtful sight. Guess our disappointment, then, when we found, breaking upon our vision, on the right hand and the left, some of the finest wheat-fields we ever saw; and that for a distance of more than twenty miles' travel. Occasionally a field showed slightly the effects of the drought, and here and there one was seriously affected, but most fields exhibited little signs of suffering, and very many, especially the deep plowed, none at all. We certainly never travelled through the same extent of country, in our own or any other state, where so many fields presented so rich a promise of an abundant harvest. We are aware that the appearance of wheat-fields, as seen from the road by the passing traveller, at the stage of growth they had attained, is very deceptive. But we entered many fields, and examined them sufficiently to justify the above statement."

We were informed by a person who had travelled through Macomb county, that through all the timbered portion of that county, the wheat fields presented an equally fine appearance. But upon the plains and upon stiff clay land, the crop has suffered more; though we trust not to the extent represented. An individual from the western part of Oakland county, remarked to us, that the late sown wheat had suffered much in that region, but that the early sown stood the drought well, and that is an opening region.

The universal testimony is that the deeper the crop is put in, the less the injury from drought." In addition to this, we learn through the General Farmer, which quotes from the Journal of Commerce, that three ships are on their way from Cairo, in Egypt, to this country, laden with Egyptian wheat. It says that the owner expects to pay twenty cents a bushel duty on its admission. It also states that wheat has been cheaper in England, within the last six months, than for one hundred years previous: and a fair harvest this autumn, in Europe, will reduce the market value of breadstuffs to a still lower figure. This being the case, the bread prospect is much better for the hungry than for the speculator.

## Sowing Wheat in July.

All the crops of winter wheat that we have seen among us, this spring, and thus far in the summer, look extremely well; and all that we have heard from are very promising. This is good encouragement. We believe that the culture of this variety of wheat will succeed well with all of the Maine farmers who know how to do it, and the *knowing hour*, is very easily obtained. The experience of our farmers directs that the soil should be in good heart—sow early—upon the furrow, and cultivate it in, or harrow it deep. Some cross-plough it with light ploughs—make ditches to lead off any water that would stand upon it, and if it forms joints before fall, feed it off with sheep or light cattle. By pursuing this course, we verify belief that winter wheat will not, by being winter killed, any sooner than winter rye or than our grass crop does. Some have suggested the utility of sowing in July.

Two years ago, Mr. J. Jones published a communication in the American Farmer, on this subject. He there stated that Mr. Hossenger of Newark, in Delaware, had practised, for five or six years, the plan of sowing his wheat in July. He sowed wheat upon his corn, and cultivated it in, and by this practice frequently obtained as much as twenty-five bushels to the single acre. During the six years, he did not fail to make a good crop but once.

He was not in the habit of pasturing his with sheep in the fall. Probably there were two reasons why this was not required in his case, viz: by his sowing in corn it did not come forward so fast as if alone, and the winters in Delaware not being so severe as with us in Maine, it did not become necessary to crop it off if too far grown before winter. He mentions that a Mr. Bowman was in the habit of pasturing his July-sown wheat with sheep, and that by it he avoided the Hessian fly, which, in that region was thought to deposit its eggs in the joints during the fall.

We hope the Farmers of Maine will extend the culture of winter wheat this year. The success that has thus far crowned the experiments of those who have ventured to try them, in this branch of farming, is highly encouraging. Faith and good works, which are as necessary in agriculture as in religion, will carry you through, triumphantly.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

## Potato Machine.

FRIEND HOLMES: Believing that I have made an additional improvement to the Cultivator, in the way of helping to hoe potatoes, I should be pleased to have you give a description of it to your readers, if you see fit, through the columns of the Farmer.

I took a hard-wood board, four inches wide, and halved it on the teeth of a corn-harrow, (made the same as a cultivator,) on the outside, with a board halved on the teeth to match, on the inside—three inches wide—and nailed them together, and then nailed them up to the wood of the harrow—coming to a point at the point of the harrow. With this—after I had gone twice in a row with the cultivator, so as to work close to the row on each side—I hopped up my potatoes, with a hand board, four inches wide, and with a hand board halved on the teeth to match, on the inside—three inches wide—and nailed them together, and then nailed them up to the wood of the harrow—coming to a point at the point of the harrow. 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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

# AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

**THE MAINE FARMER.**

R. EATON, Proprietor. — E. HOLMES, Editor.

AUGUSTA:

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 1850.

## Death of President Taylor.

The sudden death of the President, which took place on the 9th inst., has filled the country with grief. All parties unite in expressing their regrets, and, while they freely award to him the character of an honest, firm and just man, and one who endeavored to perform his duties as Chief Magistrate, uprightly and impartially, they express their fears that his decease, at this particular juncture of affairs may lead to difficulty, and perhaps serious disturbance.

The removal of an executive head, whether it be a good one or a bad one, always makes more or less difficulty. With the successor, come new friends, now incumbents, with new hopes and new suggestions, and other interests, all tending to disturb old arrangements and old relations, and establish, it may be, a totally different condition of things, from what a short time ago was in vogue.

It cannot be denied that there are circumstances attending the settlement of the California and New Mexico questions, which render it difficult for the most wise and far-seeing politicians to so move as to avoid arousing interests which may lead to danger. We hope, however, that the same overruling power that has hitherto sustained and preserved the Union, will continue its watchful care, and direct those to whom the people have consigned the operations of Government to a consummation of those measures that will bring peace and prosperity in their train.

Further particulars, respecting Gen. Taylor's death, and the proceedings of Congress in regard to the mournful event, will be found in another column.

## Funeral Ceremonies in Augusta.

There were appropriate ceremonies in this city on Monday last, in honor of the late President. A procession was formed at the State House, which, under the direction of S. K. Gilman, Esq., the Marshal appointed by the Legislature, proceeded to the Congregational Meeting House, where religious services were performed, and a eulogy was delivered by Hon. George Evans. The Legislature and the City Government participated in these public testimonies of respect for the memory of the late Chief Magistrate. The Governor, Executive Council, Members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and other officers of the Government, and the Mayor of Augusta, the Board of Aldermen and Common Councilmen, and the City officers generally, together with the Fire Companies of Augusta, joined in the procession. The bells were tolled and minute guns were fired, in the morning, while the procession was moving, and at sunset.

## Trade with Liberia.

We had a conversation the other day with a friend—a commercial man, and one who had been on the coast of Africa. He had read the article which we published some little time since, in the Farmer, on the subject of securing a trade with Africa by aiding, all in our power, the new republic of Liberia. He observed that it would make a great demand for our manufactured articles, and that in return we might receive an abundance of the products of that country, which would increase in quantity and improve in quality as they became more civilized. Among the products, he mentioned such as the following. The various gums used in medicine and the arts; the various materials for use in dyeing, such as camwood, redwood and other materials which are found there in almost inexhaustible quantities; indigo, oranges, tamarinds, coffee, India rubber, lemons, limes, and other tropical fruits. Cotton, it is said, makes two crops in a year there, and is of excellent staple. Palm oil is produced abundantly. It is said 15,000 tons of this oil are sent from Africa every year, into England, worth more than a quarter of a million of dollars. Wax and hides and ivory, horns, the various species, and, lastly, the purest gold, and now and then a diamond, are all found there, and constitute their stock in trade. By careful, friendly and judicious management, the trade in these articles may become an enormously profitable business to the mercantile part of the United States. If our Congressmen would turn their attention to that country, acknowledge its independence, and establish a treaty of commerce with it, on liberal terms, they would be doing something more serviceable to the country than they now are in worrying each other in regard to local disputes, and vexing the cabinet about the "Galpin claim," and such-like split milk.

A writer in the Philadelphia Inquirer has made some very good remarks and suggestions upon this subject. He says that Africa contains not less than one hundred and fifty millions of inhabitants. Their country contains all the elements of wealth, the materials of an extensive and tempting commerce. As it regards the western coast, enterprise and capital, with proper protection from our government, are alone necessary to develop and make them available and profitable. He considers Liberia the door of Africa, and destined, by proper aid and encouragement from other nations, to develop the agricultural and commercial resources of that mighty continent.

**OOD FELLOWSHIP.** The Grand Lodge of Maine, I. O. O. F., held its annual session in Portland last week. Forty new members were received, with certificates from twenty-seven Lodges. About fifty lodges were represented. The order is reported to have made a net gain during the past year. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: S. B. Straw, M. W. Grand Master; Ezra B. French, of Nobleboro'; R. W. Deputy G. M.; John H. Williams, of Portland, R. W. G. Warden; Benjamin Kingsbury, Jr., R. W. G. Secretary; Samuel R. Leavitt, Portland, R. W. G. Treasurer; Cyrus Cummings, of Portland, W. G. Chaplin, Benj. Kingsbury, Jr., was elected R. W. Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States for the ensuing two years.

**NATIVE ARTISTS.** The good old farming town of Livermore, in this State, is getting to be the mother of artists. No less than three young men from that town are now before the public, and gaining well earned reputations. Haines, who has opened his studio in this city, and who has transferred the heads of some of our citizens to the canvas, with life like exactness. Hinman, who has taken rooms in Gould's building, (Winthrop village), and whose portraits are fac similes of the originals, and promise a good harvest, as the future reward of his genius; and Parker, whose whereabouts we do not now know, and whose work we have not yet seen. We wish them all the success that their most ardent aspirations desire.

**GREAT SALE OF WOOL.** Four thousand lbs. of wool were sold in Somerset, Ohio, at 42 cents a pound, recently. This is the highest price we have heard of this season. 2000 pounds sold at from 36 to 38 cents.

## Free School Battle in New York.

There is one strange thing going on in the Great Empire State of New York. It is no less than a strong and earnest endeavor to upset the Common Free School System in that State. An overwhelming vote of the people, a year or two ago established the system, and a general law was passed by their Assembly, regulating the system according to the usual principles adopted in the arrangement of free schools in other States. A restlessness, and we may say a misguided portion of that community, have so far prevailed upon the Assembly, as to induce them to order a new expression of the people on the 10th, Robert Goodenow, Esq., of Farmington, was unanimously nominated to represent the Kennebec and Franklin District in the next Congress. On the same day, at the Democratic convention, held at Dixfield, Hon. Charles Andrews, of Paris, was nominated to represent the Oxford and Lincoln District.

**Congressional Nominations.** At the Whig Congressional Convention held at Readfield, on the 10th, Robert Goodenow, Esq., of Farmington, was unanimously nominated to represent the Kennebec and Franklin District in the next Congress. On the same day, at the Democratic convention, held at Dixfield, Hon. Charles Andrews, of Paris, was nominated to represent the Oxford and Lincoln District.

**President Fillmore.** We learn from the New York Tribune that Mr. Fillmore was born at Summer Hill, Cayuga Co., New York, Jan. 7, 1800, and is accordingly now a little over fifty years old. His father was a farmer in limited circumstances, and he now resides in Aurora, Erie Co., where he still carries on a farm.

**Sad Fatality.** A week or two since a Mr. Knox, of Ottawa county, Canada, was killed on board a steamboat in the Rideau Canal. His wife, hearing of the approach of his corpse, went out to meet it, taking her youngest child with her, leaving six others at home. During her absence, the house took fire, and were all burned to death. Thus of a family of nine, the mother and one infant only remain.

**Elder Swan.** Elder Swan, of New London, Conn., the celebrated Baptist Preacher, is insane, and has been sent to the Brattleboro, Vt., Insane Hospital.

**Accidental Death.** Mr. F. A. Burnham, a partner in the Antiquarian Bookstore, Cornhill, Boston, died at his father's residence, on the 10th instant, from having taken an over-dose of laudanum.

**Population of Massachusetts.** The late census makes the population of Massachusetts nearly 970,000; a gain in ten years of 230,000. Middlesex county is the most populous one by a shade.

We hope, for the honor and happiness of New York, and for the good and glory of the Union, the people will not become so infatuated by the overwrought fallacies of the enemies of free schools, as to vote against this vital principle of all public freedom, prosperity and happiness. The very foundation and corner-stone, and salvation of our liberties and republican institutions, is the universal diffusion of knowledge; and if ever our ship of state becomes wrecked, she will first strike on the rock of ignorance.

The main, and indeed the only argument used, if argument it may be called, is this, viz.: "You have no right to take my property to educate your children." Thus they bring this great, broad public benefit—which, like the sun, sheds its blessings on every individual, from the poorest and smallest to the richest and largest—down to a mere question of a few paltry dollars and cents, and put it on the same level that you would the purchase of a barrel of beef to feed the stomachs of the poor.

These sights become obscured and darkened by the shadows of the four-pence-halfpennies they may be called upon to pay the tax-gatherer, while the unspeakable advantages which accrue to the public from such schools, and thereby to private prosperity, are entirely lost sight of and forgotten.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

## SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.



### ARRIVAL OF THE HIBERNIA.

The steamer Hibernia, from Liverpool, arrived at Halifax on Thursday morning last. We copy the following items from the telegraphic despatch:

The Corn market closed quiet but firm; sales up to 65,000 bushels, of which speculators took 22,000 and exported 11,000.

Flour is dull, but unchanged in price.

Corn, white 1s. to 1s. 6d. and yellow 2s. per quarter lower.

Provisions—there is a limited stock and increased demand for shoulders, at an advance of 2s. per cwt. In all other descriptions the market has a declining tendency.

The money market is steady, and the accounts from the manufacturing districts are highly favorable.

England.—The chief feature of the news of the week is the debate in the House of Commons relative to the policy of the Ministers on the Greek question, and the continual of the cowardly assault upon the Queen by a man named Plato, formerly an officer in the 10th Dragoons. The offense was committed after her Majesty's speech in the following manner: Shortly after six o'clock on Thursday evening, Her Majesty was leaving the Bridge House, in company with Prince Albert, when from amongst the crowd assembled to witness her departure, a man walked out with a walking cane in his hand and made an assault on the person of Her Majesty. He struck her on the shoulder, and repeated, but fortunately the blow aimed took effect beyond the direction of her bonnet.

On Monday night Mr. Roebuck brought forward his censurable motion relative to the policy of the Government on the Greek question, and an exciting and very able debate was kept up every successive night with varied success to both parties till Friday, when a division pronounced a majority of 40 in favor of Ministers, in a House of 574. This vote is not to be a fair index of the state of public feeling in England, as the deepest intrigues are on foot to compel the King to resign. Lord Palmerston's speech in vindication of his conduct is said to have been especially brilliant. According to Mr. Gladstone, he spoke from the dark of one day to the dawn of another, and made a gigantic intellectual and physical effort.

FRANCE.—The bill for the increase in the President's salary was finally voted on Monday; it in effect confirms all the demands made by the President, and resisted by the committee of commission. The measure was carried by the same number of majority, 46, as have remained to date.

A man who was hesitating to become a member of the party, and who had been a kind of a leader in the government, has now joined the Republicans.

The conspiracy discovered at Oran, in Algiers, is said to have had extensive ramifications in France. Great numbers of persons belonging to secret societies in Paris and the Provinces have been arrested.

GERMANY.—The Parliament of Erfurt will meet again in August. The idea of a third German Union has been formally avowed and proposed to be carried into effect by the Government of Hanover. It is the plan of a North German Union to be formed of Hanover, Oldenburg, the free cities and those smaller States that are naturally allied to Hanover. The principle of the alliance is that of free trade.

There has been a change in the Austrian representation. Baron von Kettler has been appointed minister of foreign affairs.

The conspiracy discovered at Berlin, among other seizures of press that of the Prussian Zeitung, is announced, being a royalist and anti-revolutionary Journal; its confiscation excites especial remark. The war upon the Press is carried on with the utmost rigor.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.—It is expected that the emperor will be crowned in July, when it is said a general amnesty will be given to all State Prisoners or political offenders. On the authority of the Pesth Zeitung it is stated that all the officers who before were removed by his decree will be reinstated, and enlisted under banner of Hungary, and who were afterwards condemned for doing, are to be set at liberty forthwith—the full pardon of several has already been announced.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.—Letters from Belgrade state that a revolution against the Turks had broken out in Bulgaria. The three districts—Woden, Gurgysoba and Belgradecia, are stated to be in open insurrection. The insurgents were marching against the port of Belgradecia, which contains but a small garrison, but an immense quantity of the munitions of war. Another statement is that the rebels are in the hands of the Prussians, who are greatly augmented but for what purpose has not been stated.

SPAIN.—The news from Cuba still absorbs public attention. It is said that Gen. Narvaez has had a warm discussion with the Minister of U. S., in which he expressed the astonishment and regret of the Spanish Government that the U. S. had not prevented the expedition of Lopez from being prepared in the States, but had allowed it to depart with the object of attacking Cuba, and also reported that the Spanish Committee has addressed a remonstrance to Washington, embodying the views of the Spanish Government, and that this note is not written in a very amicable spirit.

ITALY.—The position of Rome is still most unsatisfactory. A commission of Cardinals has been named to discuss the affairs of the country, and we are told that the police has been placed under the Ausian military authority.

At Naples, a trifling accident has occurred. On the 18th of June, a part of the Grenadier, an immense edifice used as a barracks for troops, gave way and fell down, involving four and five hundred persons in the ruins.

LATER FROM SANTA FE. St. Louis, July 11. Dates from Santa Fe, to June 12th, received here, leave no doubt that the state government is organized before this time. The election for the state was to take place on the 20th June. Lieut. Mason was drowned on the 22d of May, on the Rio Grande.

The Utah Indians have given up Mrs. White's child, alive, to the Apache Indians, in whose hands it now is.

FROM CENTRAL AMERICA. New York, July 9. A letter from Nicaragua, dated June 13th, says, the legislative chambers of Honduras have ratified the plan of the new federation of Central America, and the representation is now complete.

The English Army has been very active in opposing the Union. It was thought that the arrival of the Admiral in La Union, would bring the revolution in Honduras to a favorable termination.

The agents of Howard & Sons' and Low & Co's lines of Pacific steamers have arranged for building wharves in the Harbor of Reago, which is henceforth to become the principal coal and provision depot, at which all their steamers will stop, both in their upward and downward passages. This will be a grand improvement upon the present arrangement, and will lead to the ultimate abandonment of the Chagres and Panama route.

The Courier from Guatemala, reports the continuance of disturbances there.

THE CALIFORNIA FLEET. The Boston Shipping List of the 6th inst. contains a complete list of all vessels now on their way to California from the United States, together with a comparative statement of the California trade from Jan. 1, 1850, to June 1st, 1851. The following vessels that have sailed from the United States for California is as follows.—Ships 305, bark 347, brig 271, schooners 212, sloops 3, steamers 30, total 1200. The whole number of clearances for California in 1849 is 362, and in 1850 (thus far) 534. The arrivals at California in '19 is 55, and in 1850 (thus far) 493. Forty-four vessels are now up at the several ports for California.

### DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.

#### GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

A fire broke out in the store No. 78, North Delaware Avenue, at half past four o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, July 9. The building was occupied for storage purposes, and when the fire was discovered, it had already made considerable headway, with the flames spreading in every direction. But a short time elapsed, before the devouring element had reached the ground floor of the building in which it originated. Two terrific explosions of saltpetre occurred, which rent the walls asunder, throwing the flaming, combustible matter in all directions, and communicating the fire to a large number of houses.

The telegraphic account proceeds as follows:

Delaware avenue was filled with a mass of human beings, amongst whom were several hundred firemen. The first explosion did not seem to cause much excitement or fear with the people present, nor did the second, except some slight fear for their safety, when they moved toward the eastern edges of the wharves. The third explosion was fatal in many cases, and proved the death of a number of men, women and children on the wharves and in the water. The scene presented was frightful indeed, and will not attempt to describe. On the eastern front of the above stores, where the third and last explosion of the saltpetre occurred, the ship was terrible.

Men and boys—firemen and bay-standers—rushed away from the conflagration, and as they endeavored to get beyond the reach of danger, hundreds of them rolled over each other. While running and jumping on the large collection of cotton and other goods, or on the wharves, several were cut off as dead, and hundreds ran over them, causing great destruction. The engine companies that were homed in by the fire had each old machine which they were using while their large ones were undergoing repairs. Commodore Warrington, the senior naval officer in the city, had the direction of the naval arrangements.

The marshal of the District of Columbia had the direction of the civil procession.

POWDER-MILL EXPLOSION AND DEATH. The Examiner Letter extra, of the 10th, gives the following account of the explosion of Whipple's powder mill, in that town, which took place on the forenoon of that day. The report of the explosion was distinctly heard in Newburyport.

"This morning, a few minutes past eleven, there reports were heard in the village. It was at once supposed that the five-story buildings had communicated to the fire, and that a number of persons were buried in the ruins. The engine companies that were homed in by the fire had each old machine which they were using while their large ones were undergoing repairs. A fireman was buried in the ruins, and a woman, a girl, and a boy, were buried in the water. The firemen who were on the wharves and in the water, were cut off as dead, and hundreds ran over them, causing great destruction. The engine companies that were homed in by the fire had each old machine which they were using while their large ones were undergoing repairs. Commodore Warrington, the senior naval officer in the city, had the direction of the naval arrangements.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

## The Ruste.

From the Boston Cultivator.  
THE SWORD AND THE PLOW.

BY F. BENJAMIN GAGE.

Far back in Time's departed years,  
Our earth was drenched in blood and tears,  
Two brothers, from their father's birth,  
Went forth to toil upon the earth;  
Each with stout heart and hardy frame,  
And each in search of wealth and fame:  
One was the sword, with hungry hounds,  
The other was the humble Plough.

The sword, the fairest of the twain,  
Was reckless, cruel, dark and vain;  
A daring and ambitious youth,  
The foe of virtue, peace and truth,  
From his father's heart he sprang,  
While fair and wide his praises rang;

Yet merely shuddered as he came,

And fled affrighted, at his name!

Men shrank in terror from his wrath,  
While cities blazed along his path!

Kingdoms into the dust he hurled,

And bound in chains a wandering world.

In every land, in every clime,

He wreaked his hounds with blood and crime,

Yet still the life-decaying Sword,

Was praised, exalted and adored.

As bold, the humble Plough went forth,  
But not to desolate the earth—

To counteract God's wondrous plan,

And swell the countless woes of man;

But with the heart and hand of soil,

To break the sleep and fruitful soil—

To scatter wealth on every hand,

And beautify and bless the land!

He made the nations thrive in peace,

And swelled their stores with rich increase;

Bound the torn heart of want and woe,

And bade the land with plenty flow;

And scattered whereso'er he trod,

The golden harvest gifts of God!

Yet even then, and until now,

Men have despised the humble Plough.

Thus bow the nations to adore

The sword who stains their hearts with gore!

And thus despite the nobler mind,

That toils to blemish the humble kind;

Yet it shall not be so for "aye,"

For let there come a brighter day,

When, through the darkness of the Past,

The sun of Truth shall gleam at last.

Then shall the courage-loving Sword,

So long exalted and adored,

Sink in forgetfulness and shame,

"Till men shall cease to know his name.

Then shall the Plough, despised so long,

Be thine, our nation's soul;

The first of all Honor's van,

And noblest of the friends of Man!

## M.R. JUDD'S ORATION.

### HEROISM:

AN Oration before the Fire Club of Augusta, Hollowell, Gardner and Pittston; delivered July 4th, 1850, in the Court House Square, Augusta, and published by request of the audience.

BY THE REV. SYLVESTER JUDD.

War has furnished the type of Heroism, and the battle-field the specimens of Heroes. Without dilating on that type, I shall briefly observe, that true heroism is not peculiar to war, that whatever is properly embraced by this title equally distinguishes peace; that every virtue that goes to make up the heroic character in military life is combined in civil life.

What gives value to Bunker Hill in our eyes? The fact that certain men fought there? That bayonets clashed and cannon roared? By no means. But that our fathers contended for liberty. This alone can create the least particle of genuine interest in that event. Take this away, and, in the language of Mr. Everett, in his recent discourse, the Battle of Bunker Hill becomes a vulgar gladiatorial fight. They contended for free soil, free men, a free life; wherever it is that every earnest, self-sacrificing struggle for liberty, for the liberty of our own minds, or our own persons, or of our fellow men, has in it all that exalts or dignifies Bunker Hill.

Wherefore it is that in every day of our lives, in all the progress of human affairs, there may be exhibited whatever heroism, or lofty daring, we have sometimes vainly attributed to war.

Why was not the battle between Tom Hie and Bill Sullivan as dignified, as grand, as worthy of celebration, as any violent contest between men? Because it involved no principle—it was a simple exertion of brute force. They fought as hard, and persevered as courageously, and risked as much reputation as our fathers at Bunker Hill, but there was no deep principle at the bottom.

What is it again that gives grandeur to the character of Washington? Was it the battles he fought? If this be so, Buonaparte deserves our admiration in a far higher degree. No. Mr. Everett says, "the difference with which Washington accepted his commission for the fight, and the heartfelt joy with which he laid it down, are acts that will be remembered when Trenton and Yorktown are forgotten."

In other words it is the pacific virtues, the private and spiritual qualities of Washington, and not his battles, that endear him to us.

"What," says Mr. Everett, "does history record more beautiful than the self-denial of Warren in waiving the command, at Bunker Hill? what more sublime than Washington's resignation of the dictatorship?" The beauty and the sublimity in these instances are those of self-denial and moderation. But self-denial and moderation are virtues that belong to every man, and to every day of our life, and to all conditions of human society. Wherefore it is, I say, that whatever heroism or excellency belongs to the best men that ever existed, is, after all, but the simple heroism and excellency of all the ages and conditions of peace.

One is expected on these occasions to eulogize Washington. But what have all historians, all commentators, all thoughtful men, found chiefly admirable in Washington? His military prowess and success! Nay—his pacific virtues.

This brings me precisely in this discourse to the point from which I wish to start: the commemoration of the Heroism of Peace, and the endeavor to awaken in our breasts a reverence for virtues that are eternal in their character, and universal in their application.

You have heard read the Declaration of Independence, and this day is consecrated to the memory of that event.

Every man of us must have his INDEPENDENCE DAY—every man of us needs to declare at some period or other, his independence of what is unjust or oppressive in his fellow men—of what is wrong or injurious in his own soul; of customs, maxims, authorities, that work against his advancement and happiness.

Is it to be presumed that those who enlisted for the Mexican war are the only Americans Heroes? Alas for the majority of our fellow citizens! Can it be imagined that Captain Bodfish, and my friend, Captain Simmons, whom I have the pleasure of seeing before me, are the sole Heroes of the Kennebec? They are honorable men, and they would disdain such a thought as an imputation.

There is a picture in the Library of the State House, which throws a certain grandeur upon Napoleon. After the battle of Austerlitz, he

met in the road a convoy of wounded Austrians, whom he had been the day before fighting, on their route to the hospital. Descending from his carriage, and uncovering as the wagons passed, he said in a loud voice, "Honor to the brave!" That is, he could respect virtue in an enemy, he would not despise misfortune. But here is no display of qualities peculiar to war. What a lesson this, for politicians, for merchants, for all of us—seeing our rival worsted, or our foe in defeat, who has the magnanimity to cry, Honor to the brave!

Perhaps Napoleon never appeared more heroic than when he met his revolted troops after his escape from Elba. Advancing to the front of the insurgents, in his well-known grey coat, he said, with a tremulous voice, "Comrades do ye know me? Do you recognize me, my children? I am your emperor; fire me, if you wish! Fire on your father! Here is my bosom;" and with that he bared his breast.

The Quakers are not often set down in the category of Heroes; and it might seem like solecism, or bathos, to unite the two words and speak of a Quaker Hero. Let me state a case. A few years since, when the Indians were committing depredations, as we say,—were defending their rights, should say—in the West, and spreading alarm in all quarters, the inhabitants, few and scattered, fled to garrisons and other fortified places. A Quaker would stay at home, with his family, alone in the wilderness. The Indians issued from their retreats, and whooped towards his house. He did not a gun, or an ounce of powder to meet them with. His doors were open, and they entered. He set food before them, and they ate and left. This I call heroism of the most exalted, as well as strenuous and exciting kind. Consider the result. The Indians, after retiring to the forest, were observed to hold a council. Presently their chief came forward on a leap, and fastened a white feather over the door of the house, which was never aforesaid. The Quaker was not only a hero, but he was a conqueror: he conquered the Indians, and was the Hero of the West!

Human progress in all its stages has exhibited the sublimest instances of heroism: all who have assisted in this advance have been the heroes of their times. All its experiments have been as battles.

There is the heroism of the Prison Reform. Need I repeat the familiar story of Mrs. Fry: how, at the Newgate prison, she went in among three hundred women, hardened and condemned criminals; those who were dead but with interdependence, and slavery, and war, and whatever hindered the progress of the race, and the coming of Jesus. Our fathers, if you will have it so, fought at Saratoga and Yorktown, and won for us this great continent. What are you going to do with it? It is said that sons inherit large estates are often spoiled. That is exactly our condition: we are the inheritors of an immense estate, and there is some danger of our being spoilt; danger, unless we heroically resist all malignt, all corrupting influences.

"Swamp them hounds, they're after us again!"

By one impulse, we all rushed back to the creek; and scrambling on the rocks, plunged into the water, and commenced wading down. A sudden exclamation burst from Raoul, in the fierce growl, that told us they were at fault. Beyond an occasional bark, we heard nothing of the bloodhounds, until we had gained, at least, two miles down the stream. We began to think we had banished them in earnest, when Lincoln, who had kept the rear, was seen to throw himself flat upon the grass. We all stopped, looking at him with breathless anxiety. He was all but minute. Rising up, with a reckless air, he struck his rifle fiercely upon the ground, exclaiming:

"Hang up the old musket and the kettle drum; the lightnings of heaven are arming us for us; and recruits from the impalpable air, on the pathway of the telegraph are ready to run round the world in behalf of the great cause of liberty and virtue; steam, with all its ponderous agencies, comes up from the fountains of water, and asks to be enlisted for God and the right. The press, like the rising of the sun, waits to irradiate the whole earth with the brightness of our thought, the gladness of our love, the wonders of our genius.

Hang up the musket and the kettle drum; take the spade and the drill, and the mountainous fleet away at your approach, the valies are piled up, and a way, a highway is made for our God—a rail-way is made for our wives and children, for our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, the world over.

In ancient times, the French had a sacred banner, called the oriflamme, or Golden Flame, which was used only on august occasions, and when the Christians went out to war with the Infidels. It was a great banner, wrought of silk and garnished with gold, and bearing in its centre a white cross, and when it was unfurled to the breeze, it glistened like the auroral lights.

There is the heroism of the Fireman. In alluding to this topic, allow me a brief historical reference.

The fire-engine is suggested by the common water-pump. There are obscure allusions to this instrument before the time of Christ. The ancients sometimes used a leather bag filled with water, to which a pipe was attached, and by pressing the bag, the water was thrown upon the flames. The ancients did use an engine, not to extinguish, but to produce fire.

You have heard of the Oriflamme in the commencement of the modern mild method of treating the insane. Pinel, of France, is the father of the system.

He wished, as a starting point of hope, to remove the chains from certain inmates of the Mad House in Paris. The government would not allow it. Pinel insisted. You may make the attempt, the government said at length; but you will become their victim. The first man upon whom the experiment was tried, had been in chains forty years. He was thought to be the most furious among them, and in a fit of fury had struck one of the keepers dead with a blow of his wrists. Pinel went into his cell alone, and said, I will order your chains to be removed, and you may walk in the yard, if you will promise me to behave well. The man promised him. The Rector of St. Andrews, London, preached against "the dangerous and sinful practice of inoculation." One of the Rectors of Canterbury denounced the practice as "an offspring of atheism." It promotes vice and immorality," they say, "since it diminishes the salutary terror that commonly prevails respecting the approach of the disease."

There was heroism in the commencing of the modern mild method of treating the insane.

Pinel, the father of the system, was born in 1785.

He was a physician, and a man of great talents.

He was a man of great energy and power.

He was a man of great influence.

He was a man of great character.

He was a man of great virtue.

He was a man of great honor.

He was a man of great fame.

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